

Before We Worship...

Let this amazing musical gift set the tone for the Day:

"This is My Song"

<https://vimeo.com/425976982>

From Friday's "Daily News Briefing from the PCUSA"

Let it — let our shared-worship and our shared-faith — also be "... Your Song!"

Thank you for joining us in worship!

An almost personal greeting from Tom:

<https://youtu.be/gD0jINIfUkM>

Please, in a season of "I can't breathe,"

Take a Deep Breath...

Let God's Breath-of-Life, Leading-with-Love, and Spirit-of-Hope
Fill You. Renew You. Lift You Up on Eagle's Wings...
'cause...

"There's a Spirit in the Air..."

Blue, # 433

<https://youtu.be/d8r-AkLkxtU>

Today... happens in a context. In bunches of them.
So did the Incarnation. So does our ministry!
It's the week after the Memorial Services for George Floyd.
It's a week of increasingly ominous and dangerous COVID-19 numbers.
Over one million five new unemployment claims, last week.
And, in our God's predictably promised time Liturgical Calendar,
Pentecost's wind and fire new inclusive courage led to
last week's Trinity's new "it's all about relationships!" reality...
and they lead to this Sunday's "OK, go out there and... make a difference... in My Name!"
Now, that's quite a wind!

"Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow"

Blue, # 131

<https://youtu.be/I64VL9Civwc>

So, once again, use your imagination,
use your quietest moments,
use your up-raised arms and your open hands...
and, together, let's discover that...

**"This is the Day which the Lord has made.
Let's rejoice and be Glad in it!"**

If you just said that with me,
then worship has just begun!

God is Calling Us! God will Challenge Us! God always Comforts Us!



**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church**

**Here's Your
"Worship Together... from Home" Kit**

**June 14, 2020
The 2nd Sunday After Pentecost**

The Image? Our Faithful Lives!

**Deep Roots.
Abundant Branches and Fruit.
Always... Both / And!**

Gather for Worship

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"I the Lord of Sea and Sky"

Red, # 589

<https://youtu.be/yhTpjdrLf0s>

**GOD IS CALLING US TO WORSHIP
AND INVITING US TO LIVE...**

God, often through the work and witness of Jesus of Nazareth,
frequently through the subtle Presence and Promise of the Holy Spirit
often with the beauty and grandeur of creation,
almost always... through people — your community, your family and friends —
God...
calls us
challenges us
comforts us

And, not always in that order!

How did Max Lucado (or was it C. S. Lewis?) express it?

"God loves you so much that God meets you just where you are...
and God loves you too much to leave you there...!"

God's Call... how have you heard it, in the past? Listen, again.

God's Challenge... where has it led you, in the past? It'll lead you again!

God's Comfort... just when you're tired and broken...

Remember that allegory / poem about

"Two sets of foot-prints in the sand!" ?

And, then, there was just one!

And, you weren't carrying God!

Oh, is that your phone ringing? It's God. God is calling. God is calling you.

"In Spirit and in Truth... Let Us Worship God!"

OPENING SING-A-LONG HYMN

"Today We All Are Called to Be... Disciples..."

Blue, # 434

https://youtu.be/qRzpM_oiAcE

Go Ahead, Stand Up! (No one's watching!) "Take a Deep Breath!" Sing Out!

JUST WONDERING...

I wonder if God has some sort of incoming-prayers filtering-system!

Like, "Alert! Alert! (Bells and Whistles!).
Here's Tom's next ridiculous prayer request!
Don't take his insistent, selfish call!"

I hope not.
God listens and answers,
... just, not always the way I want!

My updated old iPhone has just added one →
An automatic "Spam Risk" warning!

Filter, or not; let's pray, let's be honest with God!



OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

"I like it here. Right here. Can I stay?"

"Well, sure, you could. But you'd be missing a lot...!"

"But, I feel safe here. I like it here. Can't I stay?"

"Sure, and... there's more to being alive than 'feeling safe' and 'I like it here!'"

"Like what?"

"Well, a young shepherd Psalmist might say;
'... he leadeth me beside the still waters,'
that'd be a nice walk...

and then,

'...Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;'"

That's a much scarier walk, I'm glad I won't be alone!

And W.H. Auden would invite you this way:

"He is the Way.

Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;

You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures."

And Jesus of Nazareth would simply, personally, directly, call and bid you:

"Follow me!"

... and change your life!

... and use your life to change the world!

"So, what do you say? Want to join me on a faithful life-changing journey?"

I promise, when you get tired / scared... we can come back home for a rest!"

What do you say?

Friends, trust the Good News of the Gospel:

“Anyone who is in Christ is becoming a new creation.
The old life has gone, a new life is beginning.
In Jesus Christ, we are loved and made whole.”

Hear the Word of God

OUR SYMBOLIC “PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION” OR, “GET READY!”

Turn off your phone. Pour another cup of coffee.
Take a deep breath... and, look out! —
God’s about to Call, and Challenge, and Comfort... you!



A PLAYFUL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN...

“The Blessing — Kids!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w>

Any of them “yours”? They’re all God’s!

AND THE CHILD IN EACH OF US... “Being There... Pass It On!”

or, “... a child — or, sometimes, an adolescent young man— shall lead you!” Isaiah 11. 6

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tv+commercial+shaved+head+prom&&view=detail&mid=3E5A5B416AF05AB053ED3E5A5B416AF05AB053ED&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dtv%2Bcommercial%2Bshaved%2Bhead%2Bprom%26FORM%3DHDRSC3)

[q=tv+commercial+shaved+head+prom&&view=detail&mid=3E5A5B416AF05AB053ED3E5A5B416AF05AB053ED&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dtv%2Bcommercial%2Bshaved%2Bhead%2Bprom%26FORM%3DHDRSC3](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=tv+commercial+shaved+head+prom&&view=detail&mid=3E5A5B416AF05AB053ED3E5A5B416AF05AB053ED&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dtv%2Bcommercial%2Bshaved%2Bhead%2Bprom%26FORM%3DHDRSC3)

THE CHORAL ANTHEM: ANOTHER GIFT FROM OUR CHOIR

“Lamb of God”

Track # 14, from our Choir’s CD

<http://www.crestholmepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/11-Lamb-of-God-What-Wondrous-Love.mp3>

AN (almost) **TRADITIONAL THREE-PART SERMON**

THE FIRST STORY-TEXTS

I suggested, for our Wednesday digital Bible Study, that a “Dwelling in the Word” approach to the parallel narratives of this “calling and sending... greeting and serving...” Gospel story — today’s Matthew text and the similar-but-different version in Luke 10 — would be a fruitful introduction to...our lives as disciples in the weeks immediately after Powerful Pentecost and the following “Oh-My-It’s-a-Trinity-Sort-of-God!” Sunday. Hold the texts side by side. Enjoy their reinforcing similarities. Ponder the differences. Need Wednesday’s “stuff” re-sent? Just holler!

I’ve added some additional “texts” that also offer Gospel challenge and Gospel promise. What texts would you add: Biblical Echoes? Poetry? Autobiographical memories? Insightful friends? A Favorite Hymn or Anthem? God didn’t stop speaking to us... when the canon of the Bible was closed. God has more to say than can be contained in just the 66 Books of the Bible.

Matthew 9. 35 — 10. 16 God... Calling You and Sending You

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+9.+35+-+Matthew+10.+16&version=MSG>

Matthew 7. 16 “By your Fruits, You shall be Known!”

James 2. 26 “Faith, without works...!” Isn’t really faith, at all.

Howard Thurman :

“Don’t ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive,
and go do it.

Because what the world needs
is people who have come alive.”

Frederick Buechner — “Vocation”

<https://www.frederickbuechner.com/quote-of-the-day/2018/12/12/vocation>

THE FIRST SERMON-STORY

**“Community... is a Verb
and God is a Loving Active Promise and Presence
And, We’re Called to Go There — the Community
and Be That — the Loving Promising Presence of God!**

Here’s the First Sermon —
<https://youtu.be/on5aoGn5aeA>



OUR FIRST RESPONSE... IN SONG

“Live Into Hope”

<https://youtu.be/tw7cCBO0ls0>

Blue, # 332

THE SECOND STORY-TEXTS

LUKE 10. 17 — 21 De-Briefing Their (Your!) Urban Plunge!

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A17-21&version=MSG>

Matthew 11. 28 Tired? Overburdened? Come unto Me...!

Elie Wiesel :

"Do not stand idly by!"

Fredrick Douglass :

"Without a struggle, there can be no progress. If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning."

THE SECOND SERMON-STORY

"Half-Time"

or, "Come unto Me, all of you who are tired and overburdened, and I will give you rest!"

or, "Even That Funny Frog Deserves Some Shelter!"

Here's the Second Half of... "Both / And!"

<https://youtu.be/4PrpLvzlhc>

OUR SECOND RESPONSE... IN SONG

"Tis the Gift to be Simple..."

<https://youtu.be/SBnWFKjK-qk>



A THIRD STORY-TEXT

Genesis 1 and Psalm 118

In Whose Image? To What Purpose?

The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II :

"We are Called to be a Movement!"

David Korten :

"Want to change the future? Change the story!"

A THIRD SERMON-STORY

Worship... as a Weekly Autobiographical
Re-Enactment... of What it Means to be Alive!

And, Here, It All Comes Together...

<https://youtu.be/IuYyw-q2GDw>

OUR THIRD RESPONSE... IN SONG

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Blue, #563

<https://youtu.be/ji2LomEgYyM>

Amen.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom". The signature is stylized and appears to be written on a light-colored background.



Respond in Love and Service

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

My Favorite, Usual, "Creed"!

"We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God – Who has created and is creating;
Who has come in Jesus, to reconcile and make new.
We trust God – Who calls us to be the Church;
To love and serve others;
To seek justice and resist evil;
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God."

OUR RESPONSE IN A HYMN

"Let Us Build a House...!"

<https://youtu.be/gKJgcv8SdnQ>

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

How would you answer this simple question?

"What Does the Lord Require of You?"

<https://youtu.be/UNv1z2qwZHU>

"In Jesus' name, Live your Gifts! In Jesus' name, Give your Gifts!"

Please, mail your gifts, tithes, offerings and pledges to the church:
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
PO Box 23919. SA TX 78223-09

OUR PRAYER OF DEDICATION... AND OF GRATITUDE

A particular, personal and very special "Thank You!" to our choir...

because, you see, **"Angels Visit When We Sing...!"**

<https://youtu.be/WZIBExGFRMU>

... and they visit when we teach, and serve hungry neighbors, and clean up, and bring your unique treats to pot-luck gatherings, and when you call on the lonely and... when you're amazingly compassionate Crestholme selves! Yes, the Angels... have been regular visitors!

IF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS AND OUR SERVICE IN THE WORLD

IS OUR, "THANK YOU!" TO GOD,

HOW DOES GOD SAY, "THANK YOU!" BACK TO US?

How do you know? And, how are you saying, "Thank You! (in God's name!)" to others?

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND SERVE

- Bake another favorite loaf. Give it — anonymously! — to another Neighbor.
- Surprise an "essential worker" with a smiling compliment.
- Call a forgotten loved one "out of the blue"! Banish the "blues"!
- "Fast" on a Friday. At least, dessert. Give the equivalent in cash to The Food Pantry.



OUR CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Tom will “read” these words and Celebrate Communion at
11:40 on Sunday morning.
That’ll make it almost Book of Order “decently and in order...
“ Celebrate. Join me.
These are the Gifts of God for You, the People of God!

Invitation to the Table

“Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
We have come from east and west and north and south,
to gather together — even when we are separate — at Table in the Kingdom of God.

Our Prayer of Thanksgiving Before Communion

... in your own words, give thanks! Simply say, “grace!”

During Our Celebration...

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

Blue, # 505

<https://youtu.be/SUsoh4eM1B4>

Our Celebration of Communion

Yes, say these Words of Institution and Serve Yourself / Each Other... with me
and with these amazing fresh and free young communion celebrants:

<https://youtu.be/WtIB-wKFehw>

“The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,
and after giving thanks to God, He broke it and said,
'This is my Body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

In the same manner, He took the cup after supper, saying,
'This cup is the New Covenant sealed in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of Me.' ”

Our Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion

“Gracious God, You love us... to make us whole.
You feed us... to make us strong.
You call us... to love each other.
For loving us, for feeding us, and for calling us,
we thank You! Amen”

Our Anthem of Thanksgiving After Communion

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Red, #431

<https://youtu.be/J3iB30gCqAc>

THE PEOPLES' PRAYERS

Pontius' Puddle



If prayer is a Holy Dialogue — a two-way conversation — what are you a little afraid that God might ask you?

And, Our Part — Our Prayer to God:

“Be With Me, Lord”

<https://youtu.be/mKzmYk6x4kE>

“Give me a sign! A Tangible — Sacramental — Reminder!
May I also be a sign of your Loving Grace... for others!”



Or, a shorter, and a bit more Biblical, way of framing the 'Both / And' dialogue:
“Go... into all the World... Make Disciples..,” Jesus invites and implores: Matthew 28. 19
“Out of the depths, I cry to You..,” the Psalmist trustingly cries: Psalm 30. 1

Let me add a personal word, and my personal prayer of immense gratitude:
Because I don't know how — or to whom, or when... — Crestholme's Session may have shared the news, let me clumsily simply say... after two years of shared ministry, it's time.

Time for me to live into some other commitments.

And time for you to embrace your complicated choices and faithful future with a different package of resources: skills, values, experiences and commitments.

I've asked the Session to receive and accept my resignation as your... two Sundays story-teller and sacraments celebrant and the moderator of your Session meetings...

and all those other things that, like loving barnacles, grabbed a hold and came along for our compassionate, generous, and hospitable... amazingly faithful ride.

I'm enormously grateful... for the ministry we've (and “we” is a big pronoun!) shared. And I wish that there had been an appropriate way for me to personalize my gratitude and chat with each of you... there wasn't. And I'm sorry. I miss you already.

There's no scandal. No controversy. (At least, not that I'm aware of!)

It's just... in Biblical terms, “the fullness of time!”

Thank you for the Ministry we've Shared!

And: after each of your prayers, add: **“Lord, In Your Mercy... Hear Our Prayer!”**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

From our Choir's CD: Track 15

<http://www.crestholmeperc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/15-The-Lords-Prayer.mp3>

CLOSING HYMN

"Yes, We're the Church Together!"

<https://youtu.be/Weugc4TPwrM>

A long time ago, I went to St. Olaf College, home of the absolutely angelic "St. Olaf Choir." No, I didn't sing. At least, not in the choir. But I sure did — and still do — love and cherish their sound. Every major St. Olaf event traditionally ended with their choir's founder's now 100 year old setting of "**Beautiful Savior.**" Here it is. Not with velvet robes, or at sold-out Carnegie Hall, or with thousands on campus for their annual Christmas Festival, or in Oslo for the King of Norway! This time... just ordinary folk... students... making extraordinary music.

A lot like a blessed community called Crestholme that I know and love:

<https://youtu.be/ndUv80ALGps>

BENEDICTION

Tom's Usual, Favorite Way... to be Sent Out into the World:

Go out into the world in peace
Have courage
Hold on to what is good
Return no one evil for evil
Strengthen the fainthearted
Support the weak
Help the suffering
Honor all men and women,
Little boys and little girls
Love and serve each other
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.



POSTLUDE

"Bless be the Tie That Binds"

<https://youtu.be/gUem8tYm-AY>

Blue, # 438

"Ode to Joy"

<https://youtu.be/kbJcQYVtZMo>

Watch for the precious curious enthralled little girl in pink.
See through her eyes. Hear through her ears. Become her!
I think she comes to Crestholme!



You've given precious timely-gifts
that have become forever-blessings!
Thank You!